

" The best reformers the world has seen, are those who commence with themselves "

AURICLE



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An Open Letter to all IIB Med Students

Dear Colleagues,

Isn't there anyone to whom you can talk on a deeper (or at least different) level than that manifest in bar-room bull, especially shop-talk? Probably not, for this lack of meaningful activity must be the source of our class' obsessive-compulsive approach to exams (a self-defeating attitude, bell-curves being what they are). Being up-tight about exams ultimately indicates self-disparagement, and perhaps even self-destruction.

Signs of the latter engendered this letter. Friends, education doesn't spring from tests, lectures and books. It's found in the purpose of it all - patients, or rather PEOPLE, ill or healthy. Are you guilty of skipping those ungraded whole-body clinics? Did you curtail your last three weeks' activities to study? Eventually, the attitude implicit in those actions may make you a bad physician.

Your fellow compulsive,

Richard Padgett

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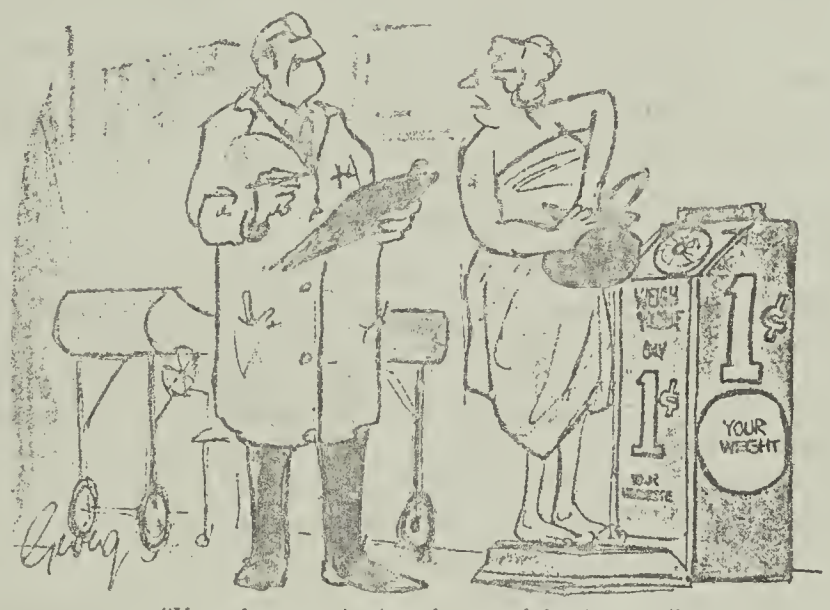
Tickets are on sale today!

Until December 3rd, you can get your tickets in the Medical Society Office - Room 2141 - M S B

After this date, you'll have to go to Hart House for them, and there will be less choice. So buy your tickets now and avoid disappointment!

December 10th to 13th

Hart House Theatre



"You doctors don't miss a trick, do you!"

Fellow Medical Student,

I would like to tell you about an elective that I took last year in IIA called Medical-Moral Dialogue. I both enjoyed and profitted from the experience and I think that you might also.

This elective was designed jointly by members of the Faculty of Medicine and the Philosophy Department at St. Michael's College to fill a gap in the medical curriculum. Very few students are aware of the fact that medical intervention can raise serious ethical questions. Medical-Moral Dialogue explores the medical-moral interface by way of case-presentation and evaluation of possible therapeutic intervention from the moral point of view...

The subject matter is important, and the manner of presentation makes it especially interesting. The session with Dr. C. Woolf of the Respiratory Care Unit at TGH stands out in my mind. At one point, Dr. Woolf asked us whether we would use a ventilator as a life-saving device in the following cases of barbiturate overdose: suppose the overdose was accidental; suppose it was an isolated suicide attempt; suppose it was the fourth attempt at suicide; or suppose it was an "intellectual suicide" in which the person, while in a rational state of mind decided to end his life. I found it more and more difficult to answer in each successive case.

A host of other problems is discussed in such areas as human experimentation, genetic research, death and dying, neurosurgery, psychiatry and distribution of health care. This elective is designed for those who are interested in, though perhaps unaware of, the medical-moral interface. For more information, consult the Electives Calendar under Miscellaneous X4-74. One correction should be made to the description: replacing Dr. Laidlaw is Dr. W. Meakin of Princess Margaret Hospital (924-0671 ext. 420). It's worth looking into.

Denis M. Conway IIB

..eclectics... - by Ron Cyr

Memories are made from this ...

"We have observed several cases of a traumatic neurotic syndrome in patients who awakened from light analgesia while still unable to move. The subsequent symptoms of anxiety and irritability, pre-occupation with death and repetitive nightmares should lead the physician to suspect the condition even though the patient is reluctant to talk about it. A direct explanation of the situation often serves as a dramatic cure." (1)

You've gotta die from something dept., Part I

According to researchers in New York, alcoholics are trapped not only in a psychiatric vicious circle, but in a metabolic one too: chronic alcohol consumption impairs the liver's ability to cope with acetaldehyde, which is the first product of alcohol metabolism and is highly toxic; in its turn, acetaldehyde injures the liver, making alcoholics even less able to rid themselves of this toxic substance. Acetaldehyde is almost certainly responsible for inflicting the brain and heart damage that is associated with alcoholism, and may even be important for inducing and maintaining dependence." (2)


You've gotta die of something dept., Part II

It has been shown that smoking affects the cardiovascular system (3). Heart rate and direct arterial pressure measurements were continuously monitored in individuals for 24-hour periods. Smoking episodes were analysed for changes in heart rate, systolic and diastolic pressure. These parameters were measured immediately after the onset of smoking, and again five minutes later. No significant changes in heart rate were observed but mean pressure increases of 10.7 mm Hg (systolic) and 5.3 mm Hg (diastolic) were observed five minutes after smoking began. Both normotensive and hypertensive individuals displayed the same generalised increase in arterial pressure after smoking.

Humble Beginnings:

Around 1830 Dr. John Rolph opened a private school for medical pupils in his house in York (now Toronto). Dr. Rolph's school originally met in a frame building erected in his back-yard. One part of this room had plain pine seats arranged in tiers, while the lecturer's table consisted of a vat in use for anatomical purposes. In the same room, tables on trestles were provided for dissecting purposes. Only a thin wooden partition separated this primitive medical school from the rest of the building in which were comfortably housed the doctor's horse and cow. In 1854, Dr. Rolph's school, which he had named "The Toronto School of Medicine", by arrangement with the board of Victoria College, became the Medical Department of that University. (4)

Sources: 1) R.S.Blacker, Journal of the American Medical Assoc.234 (1975) pp 67-68
2) New Scientist Vol 67 (1975) p 515
3) Family Physician Vol 12 (1975) p 181 1906)
4)"Historical Notes & Canadian Medical Lore" Lecture Memoranda, Brit Med Assoc)



In Memoriam

Phyllis Tarnow began her medical studies in this faculty in 1973. We remember her as a bright, devoted student who placed high demands upon herself - yet she was never too busy to think of others. In May 1974, after two successful terms, she decided to take a year off. Unfortunately she never got to complete her career plans. On November 3rd, she died while in Toronto General Hospital. Our deep sympathy is extended to her parents and family. Donations for a fund to provide scholarships for orphans in Israel may be given to Jack Backin in third year...

This Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge, Medical Christian Fellowship will be hosting a slide presentation on Medical Missions in Nigeria.

Dr. Stuart Archibald - Meds 7T2 will be our guest, relating his firsthand experiences in the African jungle.

Next week:

An article on clerkship in foreign medical schools... A close-up look at this year's Daffydil + much more...
